

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY, April 16, 2013**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Don Woods called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Board: Eileen Francolino, Kathy Zolad, Mary Udice, Robert Fresen, Jeff Perillo, Bill DeBlasio, Richard Khentigan, Ed Marchion, Don Woods, Jim Marocchini

Board Members Absent: Jen Win-Johnson

Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 19, 2012**

**Eileen Francolino made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2012 meeting. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 9-0 vote. Don Woods abstained because he was absent from the last meeting.**

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS**

Monthly Report FROM SUPERINTENDENT BRUCE TILL

Correspondence: Thank you letter from Christa Cote, CMBC Coordinator from Newington High School regarding a donation of a Parks & Recreation pool pass for the Ciara McDermott Basketball Banquet.

Extravaganza Fundraiser Bus Trip: The bus trip was very successful, a big Thank you to Bill DeBlasio.

Men's Softball: Karen Gallicchio has met with all the representatives from each team and everyone wants the league to succeed and not to have any problems.

Camp Sunrise: Working with the Board of Ed and the Camp and everything looks to be in good shape for transportation.

Turf Field: Eileen expressed her concerns about the turf field being used but not generating income. Will there be a fund to set aside money every year?

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Pool Analysis: Weston-Sampson, CMR, Inc. is contracted to do the pool analysis for Churchill Park and Mill Pond Park. They will pinpoint the expenses of what will be involved to prolong the life of both pools. There are many problems with these pools that need attention, they need to break down the expenses and address these issues to bring the pools up to code. Also need to come up with a recommendation to this commission and the council on whether to continue operating the pools or close one of them and build a new one. Weston-Sampson have done several tests on Churchill Pool which have located main leaks and breaking points in lines. Repairing of leaks and backfilling will be done. Churchill will open on time – budget was passed – operation of the pool will go forward. When full report from Weston-Sampson is done that is when decisions will be made for pools. If Churchill pool needs to be closed, it will have a

huge impact on the summer program. Cuts down on time for recreation swim, which is not a dollar issue but a quality of life issue. Parks and Recreation department should be able to offer swimming lessons. Eileen mentioned using the High School pool as a back-up.

Community Center: Minutes from the building committee meetings are available online. Bruce has given square footage amount and broke down into different components. Olsen is moving us through the process. Downs has been hired as the Construction manager. Bruce and the Town Manager have talked to Downs regarding the cost to do both facilities. Next step is to hire an architect and things will begin to pick up once both parties (the construction manager and architect) are involved. The public meetings regarding the Community Center have been difficult for various reasons, the local citizens are more interested as to what programs will be offered by the department and not necessarily inquiring about the building, however the process is moving on. More information needs to go out to general public about the building project of the community center to provide a clear understanding of what is being proposed. Some concern about where the building will be and loss of the soccer field, but Bruce has reassured the soccer fields will be replaced and located on the other side of the pond.

Budget Process: Programs have been broken down as to intake revenue and expenditures for each program. Bruce is open to share this information anytime with board members.

Golf Tournament: New sponsors, golf registration is down right now but an email has been sent out to past players to get registered.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Budget: Some cuts have been made after the manager made his cuts; a major cut of \$33,000 transfer from the general fund to the special revenue fund for a position that has been broken up in a couple different ways special events coordinator and aquatics. Bruce spoke with the Town manager about this transfer; it was done because the department was doing well with a surplus. Over the years, \$125, 000 from the general fund has been used to subsidize the recreation fund. Parks and Recreation department need to keep some monies in the general fund incase money is lost from an event that doesn't do well due to inclement weather. Other cuts will depend upon what happens with the union contract. Bruce proposed to bring on six (6) additional seasonal people, the position as seasonal will be pushed from 120 days to 180 days throughout the calendar year. This will affect overtime to Full time employees but not eliminate it completely; the majority are more concerned about the park department contracting the work out. The master plan study shows the Parks department is understaffed and seasonal people are needed at certain times of the year (ie: spring and fall) when there is more work to be done. Bruce has not talked to the union about cuts in pay or benefits he would just like management have rights to do things. This may go to arbitration if a decision has not been made by Friday. Money for the six (6) seasonal will revert back to money for overtime if this goes to arbitration and we lose. Bruce is reorganizing the department since Mike has retired, Bruce is proposing to take 2 men at step-3 category and move them to step-4 category (Ben & Steve) Ben will oversee turf management and Steve will oversee cemetery, this will be not impact to the budget. Bruce is not looking to make any changes in organization on the recreation side. Bruce has increased programs, by following this budget adding additional programs by 20% which have not cost the tax payers any extra, all through the special revenue fund.

Kathy mentioned Badger field picnic tables have yellow caution tape around them and people are climbing over and sitting anyway. Bruce wants it fixed or taken out, he did not want the table there unless it was repaired, some work done to the field and some safety concerns that will be taken care of. The people that use that park are also looking for some shade provided, Bruce is open to suggestions.

Bruce mentioned the synthetic field is being left in bad condition; Bruce sent out an email, personally spoke to the AD at the High School. Bruce has reviewed tape and is on top of the situation, has made it clear that the parks and rec department will not tolerate the field being left in unacceptable condition.

Bill thanked Bruce and Mark and all the guys for taking care of things needed to be done. He gave them a list that needed to be fixed throughout the town at the fields and some parks and they were promptly taken care of.

Don mentioned Data mail as a possible sponsor for the summer concert. The Cherry Tree planted at the skate park needs attention.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods to adjourn. Jim Marocchini seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm with a 10-0 vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Jay